

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney today released the following statement after voting no on a House Republican plan that would pay for extending low student loan interest rates by eliminating a health care fund for women and children:

“For more than three months, I have been working to defuse the ticking time bomb on student loan interest rates that is set to explode on July 1. No one believes more strongly than I do that these rates cannot be allowed to double. On January 25, I filed the only bill to permanently protect the lower rate. My legislation received the support of 130,000 college students from all across America and, with 150 cosponsors in the House, it is the only bipartisan bill to lock in low rates.

“Sadly, after stonewalling on this issue for three months, the House Republican leadership filed a bill with no consultation, which will be dead on arrival at the White House and thus cannot be regarded as a serious fix. The vote on this measure is a charade. It needs to be put aside immediately, so we can work toward a viable compromise to protect America’s middle class.”

Congressman Courtney spoke on the House floor about his legislation to prevent the interest rate on subsidized Stafford student loan rates from doubling immediately before the House vote. The video of his speech is available at [this link](#).

###